

Week Four (May 26-31)

Code Officials: Building a Brighter, More Efficient Tomorrow

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Building green means living better, smarter and healthier. Just by choosing energy-efficient building materials and supplies, homeowners can make positive changes to both inside and outside environments, creating homes that are better for you and our world.

Building green does not necessarily mean starting from scratch or spending more money. There are many ways to improve the green factor in existing homes by using longer-lasting and sustainable materials.

Educational Resources to Share in Your Community

Download, print, copy and distribute the energy efficiency information pieces below in your community.

- [10 Important Tips for Green & Sustainable Building - Flyer](#)
- [Building Green – Living Better – Flyer \(coming soon\)](#)
- [Building Green – Living Better Brochure](#)

Energy Efficiency Tips

- Use energy-efficient light bulbs, turn off lights and unplug electronics not in use.
- Seal air leaks.
- Install programmable thermostats.
- Upgrade windows, heating and air conditioning equipment.
- Change filters frequently.
- Install more insulation in walls and attics.
- Choose energy efficient appliances.

- If you are building new, consider the best position on the lot for trapping light and energy, and make use of energy-efficient foundation, framing, plumbing, wiring and HVAC systems now available.

Green homes are also healthier homes, reducing mold, mildew and other allergens that contribute to asthma and other significant health issues. Below are tips for keeping your home dry and mold-free:

- Keep it dry: install a drain pan under the water heater; place dehumidifiers in basements and other damp areas; position downspouts away from the house; repair any water damage.
- Keep it clean: use track-off mats at all doorways; clean up dust to eliminate contaminants such as lead dust and allergens.
- Keep it ventilated: install or replace exhaust fans in bathrooms and kitchens (make sure they vent to the outside).
- Keep it contaminant-free: use wire shelving that doesn't collect dust; have your home tested for radon and lead-based paint.

Important Energy & Green Building Links:

- [10 Important Tips for Green & Sustainable Building](#)
- [Building Green – Living Better Brochure](#)
- [Calculate Your Carbon Footprint](#)
- [General Information about overall green building](#)
- [Green Building Video Tips](#)
- [International Green Construction Code](#)
- [Overview of the ICC700 National Green Building Standard](#)
- [Purchase the NGBS](#)
- [U.S. Green Building Council's Green Home Guide](#)
- [FEMA's Natural Hazards and Sustainability for Residential Buildings](#)